

House Committee on Judiciary

Minutes of Meeting
2016 Regular Session
March 17, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Katrina R. Jackson, chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary, called the meeting to order at 11:20 a.m. in Room 1, in the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The secretary called the roll.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Katrina R. Jackson, chairman
Representative Bryan Adams
Representative John H. Bagneris
Representative Chad Brown
Representative Robby Carter
Representative Jean-Paul P. Coussan
Representative Randal L. Gaines
Representative Valarie Hodges
Representative Mike Johnson, vice chair
Representative Tanner D. Magee
Representative Walt Leger, III, ex officio

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Gary M. Carter, Jr.
Representative Jimmy Harris
Representative Lowell C. "Chris" Hazel
Representative Robert A. Johnson
Representative Christopher J. Leopold
Representative Joseph P. Lopinto III
Representative John C. "Jay" Morris, III
Representative Robert E. Shadoin

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michelle Fontenot, legal division director
Lisha Landry, attorney
Diane Merritt, secretary
Victoria Langston, clerk
Myrtis M. Jarrell, sergeant at arms
Janet Anthony, sergeant at arms

III. OPENING REMARKS

Representative Katrina R. Jackson welcomed the new members to the committee and introduced the vice chairman and staff.

IV. DISCUSSION OF ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS:

Representative Jackson discussed the committee rules of procedure, pointing out that cell phones should be silenced during committee, there is a 24 hour rule for lengthy or complex amendments, all written testimony should be summarized and presented to the committee and all handouts should have a sufficient number for distribution to each committee member, two staff members, the committee secretary, and additional copies for members of the public.

Representative Adams offered a motion to adopt the committee rules of procedure. Without objection, the committee rules of procedure were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Jackson, Adams, Bagneris, Chad Brown, Robby Carter, Coussan, Gaines, Mike Johnson, Magee, and Leger voted yea.

V. COMMITTEE JURISDICTION

Lisha Landry, committee attorney, explained that the Rules of Order, Chapter 6, Rules 6.6 et seq., provide that the House Committee on Judiciary has jurisdiction over all instruments, messages, petitions, memorials, and other matters relating to the following subjects:

- (1) The Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal, District Courts, Family Courts, and Juvenile Courts, matters of the jurisdiction of said courts, matters relating to judges generally, including compensation, expenses, personnel, facilities and the like, except as pertains to retirement.
- (2) Municipal and Parish Courts, Mayor's Courts, and Justice of the Peace Courts.
- (3) The attorney general, district attorneys, and prosecutors in general, including compensation, expenses, personnel, facilities and the like.

- (4) Law enforcement, generally, including matters relating to public safety.
- (5) Sheriffs, generally, except matters affecting the sheriffs as ex officio tax collectors.
- (6) Clerks of court and records of the courts.
- (7) National guard, Code of Military Justice, and the Adjutant General.
- (8) Civil defense and disaster protection.
- (9) State and local government boundary lines.
- (10) Holidays and celebrations.
- (11) Regulations and sale of intoxicating liquors.
- (12) Miscellaneous matters not covered by other standing committees.

Michelle Fontenot, legal division director, explained the review of agency rules and fees, the Judicial Council of the Louisiana Supreme Court, and the duties and functions of the Judicial Compensation Commission.

John Williams, executive director, Beer Industry League of Louisiana, 575 North 8th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 343-3436, spoke for informational purposes.

Darryl Schultz, deputy administrator of intergovernmental relations, Louisiana Supreme Court, 400 Royal Street, Suite 4200, New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke for informational purposes.

VI. CLOSING REMARKS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Johnson, vice chairman, stated that it was a great honor to have been named as vice-chair. He explained to the new members of the committee that the Judiciary Committee has a substantial and important workload and a central role in the law and policy of our great state.

Representative Jackson closed the meeting by introducing a particular constituent advocate, who provides testimony for people who cannot speak for themselves.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katrina R. Jackson, chairman
House Committee on Judiciary